

REGULAR MEETING OF THE PAWTUCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 6:00 PM

Jenks/JMW Complex for the Performing and Visual Arts Media Center

350 Division Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860

Minutes

I. Meeting will come to order

The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

a. Roll call

Ms. Bonollo-here; Mr. Charbonneau-here; Ms. Dube-here; Ms. Grant-here; Mr. Knight-here; Ms. McQuade-here; Mr. Araujo-here

Also in attendance were Mrs. Patricia DiCenso, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Lee Rabbitt, Assistant Superintendent; Ms. Melissa Devine, Chief Financial Officer; Mr. Hersh Cristino, Chief Information and Innovation Officer, Mr. Dennis Rebelo, Facilities Director; Ms. Mary Parella, COZ Coordinator and Mr. Jon Anderson, Legal Counsel.

b. Pledge of Allegiance

The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Celebration/Recognition

Mrs. DiCenso: I am so pleased that there are so many noisy things tonight. We have many great brains here. Our Coz Coordinator, is the head of the Robotics team.

Ms. Parella: Three years ago we received an afterschool grant focused on Stem in the high school and after a few years we would be able to lend them to the younger students. The program is currently at Shea, Slater and Goff. There are different levels of leagues. This year they had the preelimination elimination and the Goff team made it to their finals. It's organized like a sports team. It's all day Saturday, January 31, 2015 and the first Lego League is this Saturday at noon at Roger Williams University. I didn't know there were all these different robots. They really learned a lot this year and I would like to acknowledge Linda Ruddy who learned the names of all these parts.

Ms. Ash: It's not about me, it's about all these kids. Here is my awesome coach, Ms. Chisholm.

Ms. Chisholm: We have three teams that went to two different competitions and were all spectacular. The first team started last year. Last year my engineer kids came in first place on notebooks.

Christian H. is in charge of programming the robots both this year

and last year.

Last weekend one team won the connect award.

There are a total of twenty four students on the team and there are eighteen here tonight.

Are newest team had no experience and built what we called, “the little engine that could” and they won the entire tournament.

Our other team has a little bucket that drops balls into a cylinder—two different robots doing different tasks working together.

The students take them apart and rebuild them over and over. I think it’s a good experience.

Ms. Jones is the Robotics Coach at Shea also a FTC team competing for a second year. Six out of twelve of the students are here tonight. Ms. Jones thanked Ms. Parella for allowing this experience.

Shea demonstrated their robot. There are spinners and a scooper to pick up the balls and put them in a tube. It can be no more than 18” in height, width and length.

It is controlled through blue tooth and programs are written and downloaded through their computer. We can simulate the

experience.

Shea's robot is named XLR8.

Chris Colson-Goff: Our team competes in smaller and different missions. It's an off shoot of what we teach in class. We're very excited. Brick is the brains for all the robots and they are the same ones used in the Brown University and MIT robotics lab.

The students had to complete a project this year with the theme, learning. They taught equations to children who have problems learning. The website is called: greenemathweebly.com

The team is called the Jolly Greene Giants and Dylan Greene is a student who was involved in a car accident on Halloween and the team wanted to dedicate it to him.

Some of the pieces are inter-changeable. This years' theme was learning and they had to come up with something that involved learning. They came up with solving equations so they built a website based on the Kahn Academy but by kids for kids.

This is an afterschool program. My team has to come back and demonstrate what they've learned. It perpetuates students in my stem class.

Without Mary this wouldn't have happened.

Thank you.

The Committee was asked to sign one of the robots.

Mrs. DiCenso: I want to make a comment while Hersh is here. You cannot underestimate what COZ does. You have to acknowledge the children and what they are willing to do. They are willing to do this. They are fascinated with technology. Thank you.

Mrs. DiCenso: The next good news would never be spoken by himself. We are honored by the fact that we have a super lawyer. Mr. Jon Anderson was acknowledged as the best super lawyer in the State of Rhode Island and he happens to be our attorney. Mr. Anderson also received this same award last year.

Mr. Anderson: Thank you.

III. Special Reports of Student Representatives

a. Charles E. Shea High School

Good evening, my name is Maria and I don't have much to report this month. Two seniors each won two silver key awards and congratulations to the Robotics Team. I'd also like to give a shout out to Mr. Pimentel and Ms. Legace who were responsible for the glee club who sang at the State House.

The College Planning Center of Rhode Island will be visiting to help the seniors with their college applications.

b. William E. Tolman High School

None

c. Jacqueline M. Walsh School for the Performing and Visual Arts

Good evening, my name is Christine and there is not much to report this month. Open mic night is scheduled for January 23 from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. The school is preparing for student auditions scheduled on January 25. The Winter Dance is the 30th and at the LeFoyer Club.

IV. Public Participation

Comments from the public are invited at this time. Citizens wishing to speak should sign in with the Committee Chair before speaking. The Committee is precluded from discussing or acting on items raised by Public Comment, which are not already on the agenda. Public comment will be included in the minutes of the meeting

None

V. Executive Session

The Chairman commented that the committee would recess to

executive session in accordance with provisions under Title 42, Chapter 46, Subsection 5(a) (1) job performance, character, or mental/physical health (2) legal advice and litigation/collective bargaining of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island for the purpose of discussing and/or acting upon the following:

a. Litigation

1. Special Education Matter

b. Personnel Matters

1. Teacher Termination

c. Seal Executive Session Minutes

Ms. Dube moved to recess to executive session. Ms. Bonollo-seconded.

Roll call

Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Charbonneau-yes; Ms. Dube-yes; Ms. Grant-yes; Mr. Knight-yes; Ms. McQuade-yes; Mr. Araujo-yes

The committee recessed to executive session at 6:55 PM to 7:40 PM

VI. Reconvene to open session

The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, reconvened the meeting at 7:46 PM.

a. Roll call

Ms. Bonollo-here; Mr. Charbonneau-here; Ms. Dube-here; Ms. Grant-here; Mr. Knight-here; Ms. McQuade- here; Mr. Araujo-here

VII. Report out vote(s) of executive session of 1/13/15, if applicable

The Chairman asked the clerk if there were any votes to report out of executive session.

The clerk reported that the Committee voted unanimously to allow the Assistant Superintendent and Business Manager to attend this executive session and to retain legal counsel for pending litigation. A unanimous vote was taken on teacher termination; to seal the executive session minutes and to adjourn the executive session.

VIII. Approval of previous meeting minutes

Ms. Bonollo moved to approve the previous meeting minutes of December 9, 19 and 29, 2014; and January 6, 2015. Mr. Charbonneau seconded.

Voice vote carries unanimously.

IX. Old Business/Action Items

a. Approval of Standards of Professional Practice, 1st Reading

Mr. Anderson: Before you if The Standards of Professional Practice that this Committee adopted in 2012 and I added to it things I think will be helpful. Speaking to the media; the publication of the calendar says it will be done in August. This one says by December 1st. Confidentiality, conduct of discussions, requests for information and reimbursement to members for expenses are also included.

Also orientation of new members. I looked at Standards from another district and it is important to be clear about the reimbursement policy for those who want to go on conferences. This is done to anticipate and avoid potential problems.

Mr. Knight moved to table and send to the Policy Committee. Ms.

McQuade seconded.

Roll call

Ms. Bonollo-no; Mr. Charbonneau-no; Ms. Dube-no; Ms. Grant-no; Mr. Knight-yes; Ms. McQuade-no; Mr. Araujo-no.

Motion to table fails—six opposed; one in favor-Mr. Knight.

Mr. Knight moved to amend to change “approval of 1st Reading” to “approval of 1st Passage.” Ms. Grant seconded.

Mr. Charbonneau: We were in receipt of this?

Mr. Araujo: Yes, if it passes as a first reading, it will come back for a second reading.

Mr. Knight: The point I am trying to make is it's a transparency issue. It's minor but we're putting this document forward and telling people and it is not on the website for people to question to speak at public input.

Ms. Bonollo: How about first reading and vote?

Mr. Araujo: It's written as fist reading and second reading. It could be changed.

Mr. Anderson: The reason it is called this is originally before the days of copiers and fax machines, you would ask the clerk to read it aloud. No one wants to sit here and listen to Ms. Liss. Historically, that's why it's called a reading or passage, there's no difference. The importance is the verbiage of the document. When I was on only the Chair and any request by two members could put something on.

Ms. Dube: The public forum area, can we ask questions and brief responses may be given or ask a clarifying question or clarification given question?

Mr. Anderson: The public comes forward and the Committee is debating and taking votes so the Committee started getting OMA complaints. If someone brings something up, ask a clarifying question and let the Chairman know you want it on the next agenda.

I am happy to add that before the next reading.

Mr. Araujo: We would have to amend public participation. I would like it always to be in writing for an agenda item and have the Superintendent copied.

Mr. Anderson: That's a good suggestion.

Mr. Knight: What's considered in writing?

Mr. Araujo: An email.

Mr. Anderson: There are three (3) things addressed by Mr. Knight, Ms. Dube and Mr. Araujo. I will incorporate those three (3) for the next passage at the next meeting.

Mr. Knight moved to amend his original motion to include the word “reading” be changed to the word “passage,” clarification ability to ask clarifying question and requests be added in writing by email to the Chairman and copied to the Superintendent. Mr. Charbonneau seconded.

Roll call

Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Charbonneau-yes; Ms. Dube-yes; Ms. Grant-yes; Mr. Knight-yes; Ms. McQuade-yes; Mr. Araujo-yes

Motion carries unanimously.

X. New Business/Action Item

a. Approval of Certified Appointments

• Coaching

Mrs. DiCenso: I like you to consider for appointment this evening two coaches; Kelly Gilheeney, Assistant Swim Coach at Tolman High

School and David Flaherty, Assistant Freshmen Basketball Coach at Tolman High School.

Ms. Bonollo moved to approve the two coaching appointments as recommended by Superintendent, Mrs. DiCenso. Ms. Grant seconded.

Voice vote carries unanimously.

- **Teaching**

Mrs. DiCenso: We have a position at Fallon that was filled by a very good person who has teacher certification, but we had to work to find a certified librarian. Tonight I am recommending Stacey Anter to fill that position as School Librarian at Fallon.

Mr. Knight moved to approve the appointment of Stacey Anter as School Librarian at Fallon as recommended by the Superintendent, Mrs. DiCenso. Ms. McQuade seconded.

Mr. Knight: Did you have a substitute in the position?

Mrs. DiCenso: Yes and they tried to get an emergency certification, but because we advertised, we had to interview and hire a certified librarian.

Ms. Bonollo: Can the interview information be added? The coach information—who recommended and the interview committee?

Mrs. DiCenso: Of course.

Voice vote carries unanimously.

b. Approval of Non Certified Appointments

Mrs. DiCenso: I would appreciate you appointing a Clerk I-S at the front desk—Leslie Beatty, a Transformation Clerk I-S—Filomena Medeiros at Tolman High School and a Special Education Building Assistant/Instructional Assistant/Personal Care Attendant (preschool)—Elizabeth Pires at the Fallon Elementary School.

Ms. Bonollo moved to approve the non certified appointments, Clerk I-S front desk; Transformation Clerk I-S at Tolman High School and the Special Education Building Assistant/Instructional Assistant/Personal Care Attendant (preschool) as recommended by the Superintendent, Mrs. DiCenso. Mr. Knight seconded.

Voice vote carries unanimously.

Mr. Knight: The coaches have submitted to concussion and head injury protocol?

Mrs. DiCenso: It's done online and yes.

c. Approval of Identification Badges for School Committee Members

Mr. Knight: One thing brought forward was a security issue. I believe every member should have available an identification badge. During a discussion, Mr. Goldstein will do them, but we have to bring in a one inch (1") photo.

Mr. Knight moved to have all School Committee Members bring in a one inch photo for an identification badge provided at the City Clerk's Office. Ms. McQuade seconded.

Ms. McQuade: Is a standard passport photo acceptable?

Mr. Araujo: We would need clarification and time to see Mr. Goldstein.

Voice vote passes unanimously.

Mr. Araujo: We will have to notify Mr. Goldstein.

d. Approval of 2015-2016 Pawtucket School Vacation Survey

Mrs. DiCenso: I am requesting permission to conduct a February vacation survey. Some districts have already committed to this

change and others are looking to survey their constituents. I've spoken with Mr. Beaupre, but he understands and we hope to conduct the survey through our website; phone message and student backpacks. I am not getting feedback to do this, but as neighboring districts do this we want to be prepared.

Ms. Grant moved to approve the February Vacation Survey as recommended by the Superintendent, Mrs. DiCenso. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Ms. Dube: Is there an option for parents without computers?

Mrs. DiCenso: There will be paper surveys.

Ms. Bonollo: This will equal an earlier dismissal in June?

Mrs. DiCenso: Yes and we would have a professional development day on the Monday holiday. I have gotten no urgency to move this break, but it may become more of a reality in the Northern Rhode Island Collaborative.

Mr. Charbonneau: Will the survey be available in all languages?

Mrs. DiCenso: It will be provided in Spanish, Portuguese and English.

Ms. Bonollo: Is there a cost efficiency to keep schools closed in the winter months?

Mrs. DiCenso: I think it would be a benefit to our energy savings.

Mr. Knight: Would this be a help to construction schedule because we are closing one week earlier?

Mrs. DiCenso: I'm sure if you talk to construction workers it is for next year and I'm feeling it would be a benefit.

Mr. Araujo: This survey would be a very big part of the decision making.

Mrs. DiCenso: When it is returned, I will meet with staff and present the results to them.

Mr. Charbonneau: The first question; are we allowing students to take the survey?

Mrs. DiCenso: One reason we wanted to use Survey Monkey is that we would like to have the seniors take it, but not sure if we add them in the decision making process.

Ms. Bonollo: What is the cost of Survey Monkey?

Mrs. DiCenso: We purchased this for transformation and purchased an extended version. It was under \$1,000.00 for one year. It's a great way to poll teachers and students. We will be using it for strategic planning.

Roll call

Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Charbonneau-yes; Ms. Dube-yes; Ms. Grant-yes; Mr. Knight-yes; Ms. McQuade-yes; Mr. Araujo-yes.

Motion carries unanimously.

Mrs. DiCenso: It's been created and by February we should be ready to get it out there.

e. Approval of Subcommittees

• Ad Hoc

Mr. Charbonneau moved to approve the following members for the Ad Hoc Subcommittee; Mr. Araujo, Mr. Charbonneau and Ms. Bonollo. Ms. Dube seconded.

Voice vote carries unanimously.

• Facilities

Ms. Bonollo moved to approve the following members for the Facilities Committee; Mr. Araujo, Ms. Grant and Mr. Charbonneau-Subcommittee Chairman. Ms. Grant seconded.

Voice vote carries unanimously.

- **Finance**

Ms. Dube moved to approve the following members for the Finance Committee; Mr. Araujo, Mr. Knight and Mr. Charbonneau—Subcommittee Chairperson. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Ms. Dube: What is the purpose of this committee?

Mr. Araujo: A good liaison comes from financial committee to report what is going on with monies.

Ms. Bonollo: That is going to circumvent policy on expenditures.

Mr. Araujo: No, Ms. Devine reports back every month on expenditures.

Voice vote carries unanimously.

- **Policy**

Mr. Charbonneau moved to approve the following members for the Policy Subcommittee; Ms. Dube-Subcommittee Chairperson, Ms. McQuade and Ms. Bonollo. Ms. McQuade seconded.

Voice vote carries unanimously.

- Special Education**

Ms. McQuade moved to approve the following members for the Special Education Subcommittee; Ms. Grant—Subcommittee Chairperson, Ms. McQuade and Ms. Dube. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Voice vote carries unanimously.

- Wellness**

Mr. Charbonneau moved to approve the following members for the Wellness Subcommittee; Ms. Bonollo—Subcommittee Chairperson, Ms. McQuade and Ms. Grant. Ms. McQuade seconded.

Voice vote carries unanimously.

- Superintendent's Strategic Plan**

Mr. Araujo: This is not a subcommittee of the Committee.

Mrs. DiCenso: For many years this District has been in a progressive plan rolled over every year. I envision a committee to meet including the stakeholders of the community to follow a process where we breakdown technology and for teachers it is going to be extremely important we map out backwards from the Basic Educational Plan (BEP). We would like Ms. Dube, Ms. Grant and Mr. Knight to serve on this Committee however, with postings and OMA, it would be too difficult.

Mr. Araujo: The Superintendent and I would send out invitations.

f. Approval of a Committee to explore the Purchase of St. Leo's

Ms. Dube moved to approve the following members for the Committee to explore the Purchase of St. Leo's; Mr. Araujo and Mr. Charbonneau. Ms. Grant seconded.

Mr. Charbonneau: I respectfully ask not to be on this Committee. I am a member of this parish.

Mr. Araujo: Okay, we can ask Mr. Knight instead.

Ms. Dube moved to amend her motion to approve Mr. Araujo and Mr. Knight for the Committee to explore the Purchase of St. Leo's. Ms. Grant seconded.

Voice vote carries unanimously.

XI. Discussion Items

a. Monthly City Expense Report

Mrs. DiCenso: Melissa submits the report ahead of time and she is reading the information to you from the report.

Ms. Devine: There is no document this month. We did not receive it in time from the City.

b. Monthly Vendor Expense Report

Mrs. DiCenso: Again, Melissa submits this report ahead of time and reads the information from it. Does anyone have any questions for Melissa?

Ms. Bonollo: Are we still balanced?

Ms. Devine: Yes. We're doing projections and will revise the budget.

XII. Superintendent Report

I would like to talk about how excited we are to talk about our Saturday meeting. You saw the real work we do. There's lots of wonderful staff that care about kids. We will have great news to

report about our transformation schools.

I think it will be a great day to go over our strategic plan so we can be the best district.

We are going to be the first dual language learning facility. I spoke with Clay Pell so we can pilot a program in grade Kindergarten so by the time they finish school they will be fluent in two languages. I'm very excited to be the first district.

Our new Chinese Language Program with the Confucius Program with the University of Rhode Island have pushed students through and they are ready to pilot it in Pawtucket. How we are going to re-purpose the funding so it's not an expense in school as well as our daily work.

XIII. Special Reports of School Committee Members

Ms. Bonollo: We have Wellness, Ad Hoc and Policy Subcommittees, so I'll be spending a lot of my time here.

Mr. Charbonneau: I would like to acknowledge the Superintendent and staff for the flawless transition in the food service staff. I received zero phone calls. Job well done.

Mrs. DiCenso: Melissa Devine will remind me that the work began in

her office, but change is hard. Congratulations, Melissa.

Mr. Charbonneau: I had an opportunity to visit Baldwin Elementary School and was so impressed with the staff and students. We need to bring more of that to life.

Ms. Dube: Kim and I got to every school and it has been so inspiring. Every single school is using common planning and they're excited.

Ms. Grant: I also would like to comment on the schools. In December and January we were welcomed by everyone from the Principals to the staff and the students. It was very welcoming. Everyone was so enthusiastic and proud of their school.

Mr. Knight: I did go to Shea and spent time in the parking lot at Varieur. I'm impressed with what they are trying to do, but we may want to ask the Chief to send a car in the AM. The drop off at the green line I think that's really good. The only bad thing is the parents dropping off kids and watching them walk through there. I'm looking forward to traffic patterns being fixed.

Ms. McQuade: It is very late. I'd like to thank everyone for their hard work.

Mr. Araujo: I was blown away by the robotics teams, parents and educators. The ingenuity we saw today blew me away.

Saturday's session is open to the public, so you're welcome to attend.

The New England Patriots pulled it out again and I am looking forward to next week's game.

XIV. Adjournment

Ms. Bonollo moved to adjourn. Ms. McQuade seconded.

Voice vote carries unanimously.

The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, adjourned the regular meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 8:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Clerk

Approved by School Committee 2/10/2015